

I027415

**Miller, Robert**

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**From:** Rivera-Lupianez, Ana  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 4:05 PM  
**To:** Gayoso, Jose; Isbell, Diane; Miller, Robert; Panger, Melissa; Steeger, Thomas  
**Subject:** FW: Noteworthy NPIC incidents  
**Attachments:** 2015-710.pdf

FYI  
Bee incident

Thanks,  
Ana

Ana Rivera-Lupiáñez  
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Environmental Protection Agency  
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(703) 308-6841

-----Original Message-----

From: Kaci Buhl [mailto:buhl@ace.orst.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 4:02 PM  
To: Rivera-Lupianez, Ana  
Cc: Dave.Stone@oregonstate.edu  
Subject: Noteworthy NPIC incidents

Hello Ana,

We had a noteworthy case reported today, and it met the criteria for referral to EPA.

Case 710 (Bees missing): A hobby beekeeper reported that one of his hives was abandoned in November/early December (1-2 months ago), and he's concerned that pesticide use at a nearby nursery may have been involved.

Thanks for your time,

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## 2015 REFERRAL TO EPA

LOG: 710

**Date:** February 5, 2015

**City, State:** Houston, TX

**Narrative:** Caller seeking information on how to determine if honey combs are contaminated with pesticides, and if they could be reused to establish a new hive without causing harm. Caller reported that he is a hobby beekeeper that maintains 3-4 hives at a time, that he placed one of his hives on his friends property last fall, about 5 miles away from his other hives and within a couple hundred yards of a commercial flowering plant nursery. Caller reported that it was a healthy hive, he would estimate about 30,000 bees, and when he went to visit the hive in late November/early December the hive was completely abandoned. Caller reported there were no dead #bees found around the hive, and he was confused about the abandonment since it appeared they had ample resources to survive the winter (the hive was full of capped honey). Caller reported his friend who lived on the property had noticed that there was a drop off in bees prior to the abandonment, and never saw the colony swarm. Caller reported concern that the pesticide applications of the nearby nursery may have been involved in the unusual behavior, but has not spoken to the nursery directly due to mistrust of the information the nursery would supply.

Discussed NPIC services, including role as a reporting agency to the EPA. Discussed that pesticides can have either an acute or chronic toxic effect on honeybees. Discussed that testing the honey for pesticide levels may help determine the level of toxicity contained within, and provided contact information for the State University Honey Bee Lab as a resource for locating testing facilities and interpreting results. Provided contact information for State Lead Pesticide Agency as a resource for reporting the missing bees and concerns regarding the nursery. Provided contact information for Cooperative Extension Service as another resource for locating testing resources for honey. Discussed contacting the state beekeepers association as another resource, but could not locate direct contact information.